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UA3/2/4 World War II

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We are engaged in a war by which it is to be decided whether freedom shall perish from the earth. The individual liberties won for us by our forefathers and enjoyed by us because of their sacrifices are at stake. It is only through our courage and sacrifice that they can be preserved for those who shall come after us. It is our obligation to do our best and having done that we can only trust in the God of Hosts who has to this hour preserved this nation and whose eternal plan I cannot believe at this time provides for its destruction.

I know that each Western student is eager to do his or her part in this national crisis. The first idea in many minds I am sure is that to serve adequately one must forsake the common tasks of college life and enter immediately upon some form of military or other allied service; that times are so terrible that to continue one's ordinary way of life is impossible and without reason. I realize that it would be easier perhaps in your present state of unrest to leave college to enter a field of greater activity. Those however who lived through the last war will understand that most of our population must continue to carry on the ordinary tasks of life and that when this war ends as all wars must Democracy to endure must have a citizenship trained to perform its duties. Our President last summer said, "America will always need men and women with college training . . . we shall need men and women of broad understanding and special aptitudes to serve as leaders of the generation which

must manage the post-war world." A sudden hysterical exodus of youth from our institutions of learning would be in my judgment most unfortunate for the future. Your government will call you systematically into its service as you are needed. I have unbounded faith in your willingness and desire to do your part when that time comes. At present the hard task for most of ^{you} us is to continue to make ready for better service in the war and after it by patiently and calmly continuing at ^{your} our work. How difficult this is I well know.

For you as for those who are entering active service now I have unbounded affection and admiration for your courage. [#] You of Western who have entered and who as your country calls are entering active service have for your Holy task the preservation of this nation as an abiding place of liberty and freedom. In your courage and achievement I have faith.